

Amendment dated November 22, 2010
Response to Notice of Corrected Application Papers

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph spanning page 5, line 25, to page 6, line 1, with the following replacement paragraph.

FIG. 3 represents (a) Distribution of CpG dinucleotides (vertical lines) in the 5' region of the SPARC gene showing a CpG-rich sequence (CpG island) spanning from exon 1 to intron 1; (b) Methylation-specific PCR (MSP) analysis of SPARC in pancreatic *cancer* cell lines and a non-neoplastic HPDE; the PCR products in the lanes U and M indicate the presence of unmethylated and methylated templates, respectively; (c) SPARC mRNA expression by RT-PCR in pancreatic *cancer* cell lines harboring aberrant SPARC methylation before (-) and after (+) treatment with 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine (5Aza-dC); (d) MSP analysis of SPARC in pancreatic *cancer* xenografts; (e) MSP analysis of SPARC in normal pancreatic ductal epithelia selectively microdissected. (f) MSP analysis of SPARC in the identified cell lines.

Please replace the paragraph at page ⁶, lines 8-17, with the following replacement paragraph:

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FIG. 5 represents (a) Semiquantitative RT-PCR analysis of SPARC expression in primary fibroblasts derived from chronic pancreatitis tissue (panc-f1), from non-cancerous pancreatic tissue from a patient with pancreatic *cancer* (panc-f3), and from pancreatic adenocarcinoma tissue (panc-f5); the bar graph shown represents relative SPARC mRNA expression for each sample normalized to the corresponding GAPDH expression; (b) Change in SPARC mRNA expression in fibroblasts (panc-f3) upon co-culture with pancreatic *cancer* cells (CFPAC1); the bar graph represents the mean.+-.SD of relative SPARC expression levels (normalized to GAPDH) from two independent PCR reactions; (c) Effect of TGF-beta. on SPARC mRNA expression in fibroblasts (panc-f3); the bar graph represents the mean.+-.SD of relative SPARC expression levels (normalized to GAPDH) from two independent PCR reactions.